



TOWN OF MANSFIELD
OFFICE OF THE YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU

Patricia Michalak, MA
Youth Service Bureau Coordinator

YSB Advisory Minutes
Tuesday, March 13, 2012
12:00 noon @ Mansfield Town Hall
Conf. Rm. B

Board Members

Present:

Ethel Mantzaris, Chair
Kevin Grunwald, Human Services Director
Patricia Michalak, YSB Coordinator
Kathleen McNamara, YSB Social Worker
Frank Perrotti, Resident
Kelsey Campbell, Social Work student
Jerry Marchon, Retired Police Officer
Teri Hebert, Educational Consultant
Chuck Leavens, E O Smith Counselor
Candace Morell, Mansfield Middle School Assistant Principle

I. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 12:00 PM by Chair, Ethel Mantzaris

II. Approval of minutes

- Meeting minutes from December 13, 2011 were accepted with the correction of adding Board discussion of the recommendation of a new staff position for Youth Services.

III. Reports

- Director's Report - Kevin Grunwald
 - o Made opening remarks on the success of the Volunteer Recognition and the attention it has brought to Youth Services and its student volunteers.

Adult Services:

- o Received an additional \$945 from the NECASA grant to facilitate the development of prevention initiatives at the local level.

- Working with the YSB Coordinator to review budget status and revise budget line items as we approach the end of the fiscal year. Possible budget expenditures may include:
 - Furniture for YSB offices to maximize utilization of space.
 - Mileage reimbursement for COPE volunteers.
 - Temporary employment of individuals to support administration of year-end programming.
- Consulting with the YSB Coordinator to begin a review of the Grief Matters program.

Early Childhood Services:

- A “Design Day” has been scheduled for the community-built playground for Friday, May 4.
- Mansfield Advocates for Children continues to work on revisions to Mansfield’s Plan for Young Children, integrating data that was collected through the Community Connectedness survey.

- Coordinator’s Report - Patricia Michalak

Joy Program: Through the Joy Program provided our family with twenty-five tickets to see Clifford the Big Red Dog.

People’s Bank: Through People’s Bank we were able to offer fifty UConn Hockey tickets to our families.

Grief Matters: Grief Matters started on February 26th. We were happy to have 30 people attend, 12 new individual members as well as 7 returning members.

Community Out Reach: Met with Uconn Community Out Reach to restructure our mentoring program. We are looking for new mentors and a coordinator for our Cope, Girl’s and Boy’s Groups.

Grandparent’s Raising Grandchildren: Kelsey, our Social Work Intern attended the GP group. Group is planning to invite Greg Haddad to their next meeting as they want to support legislation for Grandparents.

Youth Work Employment: Very active year. Most of the students are continuing work until the end of the school year. We transferred more of our funds to MMS and are encouraging our clients to sign up.

Cope: The Middle School guidance counselors visited each of the Cope lunch groups for 3rd and 4th graders to answer the students’ questions on transitioning to the Middle School. Questions varied from rotating classes and X-block to changing clothes for gym class and forgetting locker combinations. The students were very happy to have the opportunity to speak to the Middle School counselors, and many voiced some relief after

the meeting.

IV. Old Business

- None.

V. New Business

- Review Volunteer Recognition Program
 - o The Board is in agreement that the Volunteer Recognition on March 6th was a success. The night brought great publicity for Mansfield Youth Services with articles in both The Patch and The Chronicle. YSB has had a number of referrals since the event. The Board was pleased to learn that a large number of the UConn students return all four years because of their dedication to the program and Mansfield's children. Ethel Mantzaris made a point that Matt Hart gave a rough estimate of the volunteers work hours to value \$77,000, however, in reality the amount is probably triple because of the value of clinical services that are provided.
- Review the role of the Advisory Board
 - o Kevin Grunwald defined the role of the Advisory Board to be the voice of Youth Service Bureau in advisory to the Town Council. The Youth Services Advisory Board enjoys hearing updates on the program and acknowledging the value of YSB services.
 - o The Advisory Board is going to work towards gaining an additional staffing position from Youth Services. They are requesting information and data from Pat Michalak and Kathy McNamara on the increase in demand of services, the amount of clients turned away due to the full capacity of groups, and what resources a new position would be able to provide.
 - o The Advisory Board plans to have a proposal in place to present to the Town Council for June 2012. This proposal will include the role of Youth Services in Mansfield, how these services benefit the local schools and community, and the gain in resources and opportunities children and families will have with the addition of a third staff member at Youth Service Bureau.

VI. Other

- None

VII. Adjournment

- Next meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 10, 2012
- Meeting adjourned at 12:52 PM
- Minutes submitted by Kelsey Campbell